

Recovering Your Stolen Identity

"Identity Theft: Recovering Who You Are", Part 4
Pastor Vince DiPaola

I) HOW OUR IDENTITY WAS LOST AND FOUND

1) Every person is born bearing the IMAGE OF GOD.

"So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them." (Genesis 1:27, NIV)

2) Every person has lost their ORIGINALLY INTENDED ID.

"When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it... the Lord God called to the man, 'Where are you?'" (Genesis 3:6 & 9, NIV)

3) Jesus offered Himself up to us as our NEW IDENTITY.

"For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made the right with God through Christ." (2 Corinthians 5:21, NLT)

4) We must begin the identity recovery thru FAITH IN CHRIST.

"For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: 'The righteous will live by faith.'" (Romans 1:17, NIV)

II) THE JOURNEY TO RECOVER OUR IDENTITY

*Our identity must be anchored in what JESUS thinks of us.

"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me." (Galatians 2:20, NASB)

The Identity Recovery Process

(Romans 12:1-2, Ephesians 4:22-24)

1st) Reject all THOUGHTS & ACTIONS from your old way of life.

"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live..." (Galatians 2:20a, NASB)

"You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires." (Ephesians 4:22, NIV)

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God— this is your spiritual act of worship." (Romans 12:1, NIV)

2nd) Redevelop GODLY HABITS based on your new ID in Christ.

"... but Christ lives in me..." (Galatians 2:20b, NASB)

"And to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness." (Ephesians 4:24, NIV)

"Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person..." (Romans 12:2a, NIV)

3rd) Renew YOUR MIND so your lifestyle aligns with your faith.

"...and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me." (Galatians 2:20c, NASB)

"To be made new in the attitude of your minds." (Ephesians 4:23, NIV)

"Do not be conformed any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is— His good, pleasing and perfect will." (Romans 12:2, NIV)

*In the righteousness of Christ, I am:

Loved by God
Accepted by God
Forgiven by God
Cleansed by Christ
Adopted by the Father
Guided by the Holy Spirit